

Rainier Beach Neighborhood Advisory Committee (NAC)

MEETING SUMMARY

December 15, 2010 6:00 pm-7:30 pm

Southeast Seattle Senior Center

ATTENDEES

NAC Members:

Cheryl dos Remedios, Christie Coxley, David Sauvion, Gregory Davis, Harry Hoffman, Katy Curtis, Margaret Yellowwolf, Matt Kozleski, Mohamed Sheikh Hassan, Paul Lee, Peter Masundire, Robert West "Trey", Rodolfo Castillo,

Public Members:

Shindo Salad, Margaret Nation, Justina Guyott,

City Staff:

Nora Liu (DPD), Pamela Banks (DON), Sebhat Tenna (DON), David Goldberg (DPD), Glenn Harris (SOCD)

Meeting Goal:

The goal of today's meeting is to hear presentation from and hold discussions with two City departments and use the information to help structure our neighborhood planning update process

November Meeting Summary Note

The summary of notes was approved as is after making a note on the inaccuracy of number cited for Rainier Beach residents serving on NAC during the public comments section.

Community Report Out

- Gregory Davis reported on the events held by the Rainier Beach Community Empowerment Coalition (RBCEC): Back 2 School Bash, Annual Town Hall and Action Team Meetings. RBCEC Considering combining its Annual Town Hall meeting with the March 2011 Neighborhood Plan Update Open House meeting.
- 2010 Rainier Beach priorities sheet was distributed to the NAC members.

Absences

- It was noted that meeting reminders are sent via e-mail and phone calls.
- NAC members reiterated made a consensus decision that seated members missing three meetings, would still be included, but would become alternates.

- Members attending were encouraged to check in with those who are absent and to determine if they are still able to attend meetings.
- ***Consensus was reached to elevate Matt Kozleski to seated membership.***

Conflict of Interest

- Conflict of interest information and disclosure form was distributed to NAC members.

Planning Outreach Liaison (POL) Program presented by Sebhat Tenna

- Guided by the Race and Social Justice Initiative, the Planning Outreach Liaisons (POLs) program was started to include historically underrepresented community members in civic engagement.
 - Provision of childcare services, convenient meeting times, locations, meeting structure, etc. are considered to provide culturally appropriate civic engagements, alleviate barriers, and to increase involvement.
 - The program is run in collaboration with the Seattle Neighborhood Group, fiscal agent with whom POLs are subcontracted. City staff provides recruitment and training of POLs
 - There are 12 POLs who will work in Rainier Beach, including POLs to the: Spanish speakers, Youth, African Americans, Vietnamese, Chinese, Tagalog speakers, Laotian, Hmong, Af-Somali speakers, Amharic speakers, Afan-Oromo speakers, and Elders and people living with disabilities.
 - Information from these groups is transliterated, forwarded to DPD, integrated with information from Open House meetings and online participants. The information will also be posted on the web.
 - The Larger goal is to bring people in community together.
- Q. What is critical mass for engagement? How is it sustained?
- A. There are no percentage goal set. POLs are asked to reach as many people in their respective community group as possible.

Race and Social Justice Initiative (RSJI) presented by Glenn Harris

- Mission of Race and Social Justice Initiative (RSJI) is to eliminate racial inequity in community by addressing institutional racism within City government and promoting multi-culturalism and participation of all residents.
- Institutional racism is defined as policies, programs or procedures that represent barriers to participation and opportunity. This need not be intentional. The initiative addresses equity vs equality.
- Office of Civil Rights is the coordinating department. All City employees receive training. Every department has a Change Team.
- There are four main areas of focus: Inclusive Outreach and Public Engagement, Workforce Equity, Contracting Equity, Immigrant and Refugee Access to Services

Outcomes Include:

- Women/minority contracting went from 30% to 6% in recent years.
- Made changes around workplace equity.
- The POL model is being utilized throughout the City to increase inclusive outreach and public engagement.
- Have Immigrant and Refugee Advisory Board to assist in making policy decisions on this issue. Translation and Interpretation policy addresses need for these services in areas with more than 5% non-English speaking population. Documents must be translated into top five tier languages.
- Twenty-five organizations participate on a roundtable coalition looking at working this work forward more broadly.

Q. How are contracts granted?

A. Depends on lowest bid, but other factors are also looked at. The City has Women and Minority Business Enterprises (WMBE) roster.

Q. Has the Seattle Schools been engaged with regard to Race and Social Justice?

A. Roundtable does discuss education issues. The School District has been at the Roundtable and engaged.

Q. Are there any refugee/immigrant members on the Roundtable? There is a difference between having service provider representation and having an actual community member.

A. Yes, there are refugee and immigrant members on the Roundtable and yes there is a difference.

Letter from Five Community Members

- City staff presented the letter and related correspondences asking NAC to review and provide advice.
- Some of the comments, suggestions and issues raised by NAC members include:
 - Advance mail notice of neighborhood planning meetings
 - * Would need to determine costs and then make a determination.
 - * Against doing mailing – not part of NAC work
 - * Information is available on-line; there are other methods that could be utilized to notify community
 - * Could utilize community newsletters
 - * Could include notices in Light bill, cable bill, etc.
 - * Good ideas for community forum, but not for regular NAC meetings
 - Need to set some boundaries; stick to workplan and not get side-tracked
 - Role of community members at NAC meetings
 - * People are welcome to come and observe, but need to hold comments until public comment period or send comments in writing. Input can be given at large forum.
 - * Should have public comment first, so speakers are not commenting/reacting to issues raised at the meeting.

- Role of NAC meetings
 - * NAC is the place where the community should be invited to come and hear City presentations, ask their questions and get responses, etc. that would not be available to them at the larger community forum.
 - * It is role of NAC members and POLs to distribute this information to community
 - NAC comments on how to address the letter
 - * Suggestion that NAC form a subcommittee to address issues raised in the letter and come back with some recommendations
 - * Recommendation to table issue until NAC finishes its education piece
 - * Have already spent enough time on the letter; have many other issues to discuss
 - * Need to define group identity and tasks before taking on this issue
 - We, NAC members need to take ownership of what our deliverables are, what our expectations for ourselves are, how we start framing our meetings, and how we make decisions.
 - Would be good to have no agenda items, but just hold meeting to discuss expectations, who wants to do what and how we are going to do it.
 - Expectation is that we would be working with our City partners not that some of our community members get into power struggle that is unnecessary; we have a lot of work to do and don't want work to get derailed.
 - Suggestion to hold extra meeting next month to deal with organization issues and some bonding.
- ***Consensus was reached to hold extra meeting next month to deal with organization issues***
 - City staff will follow up with regard to logistics to scheduling the extra meeting in January 2011.

Public Comment Period

- Community needs to have access to NAC meetings, gain same education as NAC, need to be recognized and allowed to fully participate at meetings and provide input on setting the agenda.
- Native American presence in Rainier Beach for 100 years. There is disrespect from City toward the Native American community. Native community is watching this process. I intend to fully participate in this process.

Next Meeting

- ***Decision was made to extend the NAC meeting to 2-hours long: 6:30 to 8:30 PM.***
- City will notify NAC members of meeting dates for January.
- NAC will hold extra meeting to discuss issues raised this evening.